(b) Separate statistics for export of Tulsi is not provided by the Directorate General of Commercial Intelligence and Statistics (DGCI&S), Kolkata. However, according to the data received by APEDA from certification agencies, in the year 2007-08 around 172.75 tonnes of Tulsi valued at US $ 26431 was exported by Organic India Private Ltd, Lucknow.

(c) Under National Project on Organic Farming (NPOF) efforts are being made to promote organic farming in the country and to educate farmers in betterment of crop management for improvement in production of different crops. Dissemination of information and technology transfer to farmers is carried out through Farmers' training on Organic Farming. Training programmes on quality control of organic inputs, certification and inspection are also provided. Besides, field demonstrations with the use of organic inputs like vermicompost, bio-fertilizers and enriched biogas slurry are also organized. Service Provider Scheme is one of the important component of NPOP under which group certification is being promoted to encourage organic farming including that of Tulsi among small and marginal farmers.

(d) As per information received from APEDA, United Kingdom and Germany are the major importers of Tulsi. APEDA implements schemes like Market Development, Infrastructure Development and Quality Development to promote export of agriculture products including organic products.

Shortage of Copra

555. SHRI MOHD. ALI KHAN: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is an acute shortage of copra in this season;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps being taken to protect the interests of copra farmers especially in Andhra Pradesh?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) and (b) There is no acute shortage of copra in this season.

(c) The steps being taken by the Government to protect the interests of copra farmers including Andhra Pradesh are as under:

(i) Declared the minimum support price of edible copra, milling copra and even for dehusked coconut to safeguard the farmers' interest during periods of high production and crash in price.

(ii) Financial support is being given through Coconut Development Board under Technology Mission Programme for processing and value addition of coconut by introducing copra dryer and other equipments.

(iii) A sum of Rs.8.5 crore has been given for management of Eriophyid mite infested coconut garden in Andhra Pradesh.

Financial crises in NAFED

556 SHRI AMAR SINGH: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware that NAFED had been reeling under tremendous financial crisis for the last two years and if so, what are the specific reasons for such crisis;